

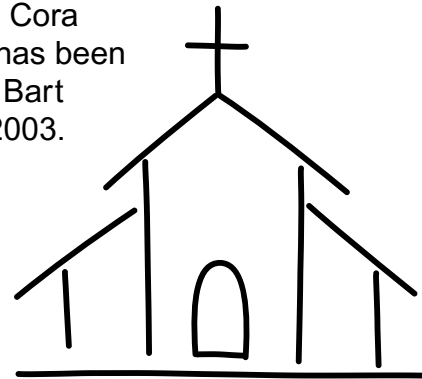
Save the Date!

We have many exciting events coming up!
Please mark your calendars!

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| August 30 | District Conference at Bridgeport UMC at 3pm. |
| September 13 | Church Picnic at the Westover senior center pavilion at 4pm. |
| September 20 | Messy Church at 5:30pm. |
| September 21 | Bishop's Day in the district at Life UMC. |
| October 4 | Trunk or Treat! We will start at 12:15 at the pavilion next door. |
| October 7 | Charge Conference at the church at 2pm. |
| October 11 | Pet blessings at 2pm at the pavilion next door. |

Our Preacher - Today

The Rev. Martha Ognibene retired as senior pastor of Wesley UMC in Morgantown on June 30, 2026, concluding a 32-year active ministry career. An elder in the West Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Martha has served churches in Parkersburg, Huntington, Colliers, and Short Gap, and as superintendent of the Northern District. She earned degrees from West Virginia Wesleyan College, Virginia Tech, and the Methodist Theological School in Ohio. Throughout her career, she has served on the WVWC Board of Trustees, the WVAC Board of Ordained Ministry, multiple district committees and boards, and community mission efforts. A former schoolteacher and certified reading specialist, Martha is the parent of three adult children living in Morgantown, New Orleans, and the Washington, D.C., area, and is the grandmother of Cora and Silas. She has been married to Rev. Bart since May 24, 2003.



Lectionary Readings Sunday, August 23rd

Exodus 1:8-2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20



Gifts of Love

Thanks for supporting this ministry. In addition to our basic needs, we need some lightweight blankets and more linens. Thank you.



****All notices for the bulletin are due on Mondays each week and for the newsletter they are due by the 24th of each month.****

Welcome to Spruce Street United Methodist Church



"A Church at the Heart of Morgantown with a Heart for Morgantown"

386 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV 26505 304.292.3359

Website: sprucestumc.org

Email: secretary@sprucestreetumc.org

10:45 a.m. Service on WCLG-AM 1300 or Morgan 92.1FM

Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/sprucestreetumc/

Audio Live Streaming: <http://mixir.com/sprucestumc/>



12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026

8:30 & 10:45 AM

WELCOME TO SPRUCE STREET CHURCH

We are glad you are here. Whether you are here for the very first time or a lifelong member of Spruce Street United Methodist Church, you are welcome. May this day be filled with God's presence and blessing.

2026 SSUMC Attendance & Stewardship - August 9, 2026

80 In Person / 126 Online / Radio Est. 300 / Offering \$4,197.44/ Budget \$4,879.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Radio Broadcast: *To the Glory of God.*

Altar Flowers: *To our guests - Thank you, so much, for being here! Nina and Andrew*

Refreshments: Please sponsor.

Liturgist: Bonnie Johnson (8:30) & Dan Erenrich (10:45)

Prayers of the People of God

David Barnes
Mary Brand
Lori Britton
Yvonne Bucklew
Eldon Callen
Sally Collins
Rhonda Croston
Doug Harman
Brian Hoskinson

Bill Kennell
Charlene Moats
Tim Moats
Charlotte Murphy
Fred Smith
Nancy Smith
Angie Thompson
Penny Turley
Rhoda Carroll Whitney

THIS WEEK AT SPRUCE STREET UMC

Sunday, August 16th

8:30AM	Worship Service (In Person)
9:45AM	Sunday School
10:45AM	Worship Service (In Person & Radio Broadcast)

Monday, August 17th

7:00PM	Trustees
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Wednesday, August 19th

11:00AM	Bible Study
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Thursday, August 20th

10:00AM	Chair Yoga
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Saturday, August 22nd

10AM	Bonhoffer Study @ Life UMC in Fairmont
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Prayer updates can be shared with Carolyn Carr. Remember to check the newsletter for our long term prayer list.

The Church in Worship

Congregational Responses and Prayers are in ***bold italic print***

† Congregation Standing (*as you are able*)

Prelude		
Announcements and Welcome		
Our Loving, Learning, Leading Prayer (on screen)		
† Call to Worship	Psalm 133	Liturgist
133:1 How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!		
133:2 <i>It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.</i>		
133:3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.		
<i>For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.</i>		
† Hymn #140 (UMH)	“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”	
First Prayer	Liturgist	
<i>Eternal God, you are with us through every part of our lives, even when others try to hurt us. Teach us to live together in peace, so that in all we do, we may praise you now and forever. Amen.</i>		

PROCLAMATION

First Reading	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Liturgist
¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. ²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.		

Children’s Moment	Rev. Martha Ognibene	
Special Music	Vocal Solo	Andrea Elkins
Gospel Reading	Matthew 15:10-28	Rev. Martha Ognibene

¹⁰ Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³ He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶ Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile." ²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is

tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

Sermon	“How to Get Undefined”	Rev. Martha Ognibene
† Hymn #389 (UMH)	“Freely, Freely”	
<u>RESPONSE TO THE WORD</u>		
Prayers of the People (on screen)		Pastor Bart
Affirmation of Faith (on screen)	UMH p.35 #9	Pastor Bart
Prayer of Confession (on screen)	UMH #26	Pastor Bart

WORSHIPPING THROUGH GIVING

Invitation To Give	Eldon Callen, CLM	
Offertory		
† Doxology #95 (UMH)	“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”	
Prayer of Thanksgiving (on screen)	Eldon Callen, CLM	
<i>Gracious God, you pour your blessing upon your people like dew upon the earth and oil upon the head, flowing beyond all boundaries we would draw. We thank you for the gift of unity—good and pleasant, beautiful and life-giving—meant not only for us, but for the healing of the world. Receive these offerings as signs of our desire to live together in your love, to practice radical welcome, and to share your abundance with all your children. Let what we give today flow outward in compassion and service, that our life together may reflect your kingdom of peace, justice, and joy. Amen.</i>		
The Lord’s Prayer (on screen)	UMH #895	Pastor Bart
† Hymn #2237 (TFWS)	“As a Fire Is Meant for Burning”	

SENDING FORTH

Blessing	Pastor Bart
<i>May each of you go in peace to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously with the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Amen.</i>	
Postlude	